Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 19th March 2026
Great & Little Chishill

Present: Cllrs Clements, Dring, Hall, Ridge (Chair)
Members of the public: Ruth and Robin Diblee; representing the Playground Committee: Emily Brown, Anna Coney, Jenny Isted
Minutes: A Lorenz, Parish Clerk

1 Apologies for Absence
An apology was received from Cllr Hatt.

2 To receive any declaration of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest of Councillors
None received.

3 Approval of the Minutes of the February 2026 PC meeting
The minutes were approved by the meeting and subsequently signed by the PC Chair.

4 Public Participation
Robin and Ruth Diblee requested an update on the new safety mirror. Cllr Dring now has the mirror in his possession and has assessed fixtures and fittings. It has become apparent that the new mirror is subject to the same 'week connection' problems as the one in situ. Cllr Dring proposed to explore alternative fastening options. He is in contact with the vicar of St Swithun.

The representatives of the Playground Committee spoke about the history of local fundraising and the achievements to date. They have already explored grant application scenarios for additional funds and written content for grant applications; some of them well advanced. The Playground Committee feel that this is now at a stage where the playground refurbishment should officially be entered into the Parish Council's list of future community projects.

For the sake of continuity of fundraising effort, the Playground Committee will internally discuss the option of one of their members standing as a candidate for the Parish Council in the upcoming local elections.

5 Great Chishill Playground refurbishment

1. The Parish Council agreed to set aside £2000 from the 2025/26 budget towards playground refurbishment.

2. Councillors concurred with the Playground Committee that it is now time for the playground refurbishment to become a Parish Council project, drawing on the work and expertise already gained by local volunteers. The Parish Council will be named as the official applicant on any grants and all contractual agreements with equipment suppliers will run through the Parish Council.

The Parish Council also debated how best to structure project planning and project management internally. There is to be a ringfenced project fund within the Parish Council budget, into which restricted donations by local fundraisers can be accepted. Cllr Clements suggested that a Council sub-committee should be formed with a specific project management remit for the playground refurbishment.

Actions on the Clerk:

- to review deeds and covenants concerning the Council-owned land comprising the playing field and playground and report to the Parish Council.
- to check the Parish Council's policies with reference to donations and update them as appropriate.
- to keep in touch with the Playground Committee and effect introductions to volunteers who have been on compatible fundraising journeys in other villages, where possible (e.g. Great Shelford).

6 Parish Councillor candidates, 7th May elections

Cllrs Ridge, Dring and Hall are willing to stand again; Cllr Leitch indicated her willingness to do the same at the February meeting.

Cllr Dring will check with a parishioner currently abroad for work whether she is still committed to standing for the Council; the Playground Committee may yield another candidate.

Overall, councillors present felt confident that a full complement of candidates for the local elections can be achieved.

The Clerk reminded everyone of the time pressure inherent in the short nomination period for the 2026 elections. The notice for the local elections is published on 30th March; candidates' nomination papers have to be taken to SCDC before 9th April by hand with the Easter break in the way.

7 Finance

1. The Clerk presented the finance sheet for February 2026. It was accepted and signed.
2. No further update on IT supplier costs at this time.

8 Planning

1. 1 Heydon Road application 26/00623/S19LB (variation to drawings)
2. 46 Heydon Road, 26/0210/TTCA (height reduction of several trees)

The Parish Council has not objection to either; no further action.

Cllr Clements also reported that the planning appeal for the development of eight houses off Hall Lane has been denied.

9 Current Consultations: local government, DevCo

The Clerk briefed the Parish Council on the UK Government's plans to put in place a development corporation with a remit for all of South Cambridgeshire (already highlighted in monthly reports by County Cllr P McDonald). These were raised as an important consultation issue at the recent annual conference for clerks convened by SCDC.

The meeting discussed the pros and cons of the expected DevCo remit. While there was some concern over a decision-making body that operates parallel to established planning, it was felt that the benefits of unlocking government funds for the area were very likely to outweigh any such concern.

The meeting agreed that the DevCo plans are very unlikely to threaten the villages of Great and Little Chishill and that no further action is necessary at this stage.

10 Enforcement issues

The Clerk received an email from Chris Braybrook with regard to the four sites which are supposed to be reviewed by planning enforcement. No meaningful progress has happened since the last update from enforcement in January.

1. Rabbit Residence (case officer Tony Wallis): enforcement notice was due to be issues late February; it is still awaiting legal review at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning. Once

published, the Parish Council will be notified. Terms of the notice: to comply within 12 months. There is an appeals procedure. No direct contact with the case officer.

2. North Hall Farm (case officer Chris Braybrooke): no update by enforcement.
3. Bridgefoot Farm (case officer unknown): no update by enforcement.
4. Windmill Hill/Barley Road (case officer Robert Bird): no update by enforcement.

11 Questions re District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Hall commented on the reported progress regarding potholes in the County Councillor's report and drew the meeting's attention to outstanding local repair issues: the blocked drain in Colts Croft (2 years old) and the sunken verge in Hall Lane caused by badly executed backfill after utility works (new). He will report the latter to Highways, as it is within their repair responsibility.

12 Verge cutting diary

The Clerk reported on the established verge cutting schedule (3-4 times per year, ad hoc, depending on rainfall). The meeting agreed that a more regular regime would be preferable to prevent accumulation of debris in the road.

The Clerk will engage with the current contractor to discuss options for a regular annual regime.

13 Village sports: Cricket field inquiry; Therfield Heath update

1. Great Chishill received an inquiry for groundshare from a Cambridgeshire cricket association. The Playing Field Association has decided to declined this request, since it would overstretch the pitches available in Great Chishill.
2. Therfield Heath: Cllr Hall reminded the meeting that several sports pursued by young parishioners were affected by the restrictions placed on traditional, informal use of Therfield Heath for sporting activities by the Conservators now.

The Clerk to the Conservators has been in touch with Cllr Hall. The Conservators have offered to present their case for the restrictions at the next Parish Council meeting in April. The meeting agreed to set aside 45 minutes for an exchange between the Conservators and local stakeholders (families affected by the restrictions) before the April meeting.

The envisaged start time for the April meeting is 7pm (Clerk to check with the Conservators' Clerk whether this is feasible).

14 To accept notices and matters for the agenda of the next meeting

Matters for the agenda of the next regular meeting(16th April)

1. Preparations for local elections (7th May)
2. Preparations for the AGM and AMP (14th and 15th May)

Matters for the agenda of the additional meeting(26th March)

1. To appoint an internal auditor for the year 2025-26.
2. To review existing Parish Council policies and adopt additional policies.

These minutes have been approved as a true account of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th March 2026.

Signature: Date:

John Ridge, Chair of the Parish Council